99TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPT. 99-724
Part 1

RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL OLIVER NORTH OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE

JULY 30, 1986.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. NICHOLS, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 485 which on June 24, 1986, was referred jointly to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 485) directing the President to provide to the House of Representatives certain information concerning activities of Lt. Col. Oliver North or any member of the staff of the National Security Council in support of the Nicaraguan resistance, considered the same, report unfavorably thereon and recommend that the resolution do not pass.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION

The Committee on Armed Services met on July 24 to consider House Resolution 485. Since House Resolution 485 is a privileged resolution, the committee was bound to report to the House within 14 legislative days from the date it was referred to the committee (June 24, 1986).

DISCUSSION

H. Res. 485 would direct the President to provide the House of Representatives with a substantial amount of documentation relative to activities of Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, or any other member of the National Security Council, relative to any contact with any private individual or any representative of a foreign government, concerning the provision of funding or other assistance from any source other than the U.S. government, to the Nicaraguan resistance. It would also require any document prepared by, or in the possession of, any member of the staff of the National Security

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Council concerning the provision of such assistance, specifically any document or discussion or involvement in private fund-raising activities on behalf of the Nicaraguan resistance. It would also require a complete list and description of any document concerning any contact or other communication since July 28, 1983 of Lt. Col. North, or any other member of the staff of the National Security Council, and any member or representative of the Nicaraguan resistance. Finally, it would require a complete list and description of any document concerning contacts, or other communication, since July 28, 1983, between Lt. Col. North, or any other member of the staff of the National Security Council, and Robert W. Owen, Maj. Gen. John K. Singleton (U.S. Army, retired) and John Hull.

Deficiencies in the resolution

Unlike the usual practice of the House in a resolution of inquiry addressed to the President, rather than requesting him to produce the specified materials, this resolution directs the production of the information. The mandatory nature of H. Res. 485 could place the President in an untenable position concerning compliance if the resolution were agreed to in its present form.

The resolution would require the production of a substantial amount of documentation within a seven-day period of its adoption.

COMMITTEE POSITION

The Committee on Armed Services, on July 24, 1986, a quorum being present, reported the resolution adversely by voice vote.

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